

Napa County Sheriff – Coroner Forensic Science Center 1535 Airport Blvd. Napa, CA 94558

(707) 253-4256

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT

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SIGNATURE:

DATE: CLASSIFICATION CORONER NUMBER CASE NUMBER (Dispatch) SUICIDE C14-209 DATE REPORTED RECEIVED BY TIME DEPUTY ASSIGNED 04/13/2014 2054 DISPATCH JONES, JAY REPORTED BY : ADDRESS PHONE NAPA CITY/COUNTY DISPATCH 1539 FIRST ST (707)253-4451 LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDI.E. NAPA, CA 94558 DECEDENT FIRST NAME MIDDLE LAST NAME AKA PERSONAL **MICHAEL CRAIG** RUPPERT DATA LAST USUAL ADDRESS 1128 TUBBS LANE CALISTOGA, CA PHONE RACE SEX HEIGHT WEIGHT HAIR BIRTH PLC. EYES WHITE 5'10' M 190 GRAY BLUE AGE DOB DRIVER LIC. NO. SSN CITIZENSHIP STATE 63 02/03/1951 CA US MARITAL STATUS OCCUPATION EMPLOYER SINGLE WRITER FREE-LANCE STREET ADDRESS OR LOCATION DEATH CITY OR TOWN DATE OF DEATH TIME OF DEATH LOCATION 1128 TUBBS LANE **CALISTOGA** 04/13/2014 2105 LAST SEEN LAST SEEN ALIVE BY DATE TIME LAST SEEN ALIVE WHERE ALIVE JACK E. MARTIN 04/13/2014 1500 AT HOME CAUSE CAUSE OF DEATH PERFORATING CONTACT GUNSHOT WOUND OF HEAD // INJURY TIME AND DATE OF INJURY DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED 2049 04/13/2014 **GUNSHOT/ HEAD//** INJURY OCCURRED (Work or Non-Work) PLACE OF INJURY CITY OR LOCATION COUNTY STATE 1128 TUBBS LANE **CALISTOGA** NAPA CA VEHICLE YEAR MAKE MODEL LOCATION OF VEHICLE LICENSE NO. KEYS RESIDENCE RESIDENCE - PROPERTY STATUS KEYS RESIDENCE RELEASED BY: PROPERTY LOCATION DISPOSITION (SEE PROPERTY SHEET FOR DETAILED INFO) CLOTHING DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CLOTHING WORN WORN GREY SHORT SLEEVE POLO SHIRT, BROWN T-SHIRT, GREY UNDERWEAR, BLUE JEANS, BROWN BELT, GREY SOCKS, BROWN HIKING BOOTS. REMAINS IDENTIFIED HOW OR HOW IDENTIFIED IDENTIFICA-TION LAND OWNER/FRIEND/EXCUTOR JACK ELIOT MARTIN **PHOTOGRAPHS** PHOTOGRAPHS AT SCENE BY: PHOTOGRAPHS AT MORGUE: JONES, JAY JONES, JAY REPORTABLE SUMMARY DISPOSITION of REMOVED BY: REMOVED TO: FAMILY MORTUARY PREFERENCE REMAINS CORONER'S FACILITY CORONER'S FACILITY NAPA VALLEY MEMORIAL AUTOPSY PATHOLOGIST: DATE NOTIFIED TIME NOTIFIED DEATH CERTIFICATE SIGNED INFORMATION JOSEPH I. COHEN RELATIVES NAME **ADDRESS** PHONE **EXECUTOR** MARTIN, JACK WHO WAS NOTIFIED OF DEATH: RELATIVE RELATIONSHIP DATE NOTIFIED TIME NOTIFIED NOTIFICATION MARTIN, JACK **EXECUTOR** 04/13/2014 2105 NOTIFIED BY: HOW WERE THEY NOTIFIED

IN PERSON

MACDONALD, WILLIAM



Narrative

Napa County Sheriff – Coroner Forensic Science Center 1535 Airport Blvd. Napa, CA 94558 (707) 253-4256 NAPA COUNTY CORONER'S OF

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DATE:

	Case	Reference		
Deceased First Middle Last	Deputy Assigned	Coroner Number	Case Number	Date and Time of Report
MICHAEL CRAIG RUPPERT	JONES, JAY	C14-209		On 04/14/2014 @ 13:46

Investigation

Investigation:

On 04/13/2014 at approximately 2115 hours, I was contacted at home by Sgt. Chris Perry in regards to a shooting in the Calistoga area. Sgt. Perry stated it was a probable suicide. I responded and arrived at approximately 2215 hours. When I arrived I spoke with Deputy William MacDonald, who was dispatched to the Coroner's case from patrol. Deputy MacDonald arrived with the Fire Department staging waiting for the scene to be declared safe. He approached the Decedent Identified as Michael Craig Ruppert and declared Death at approximately 2105 hours. Deputy MacDonald canceled Fire and medical from coming into the scene. He said the decedent had no pulse; his eyes were fixed and dilated. The decedent had a large gunshot wound to his head entering one side and exiting the opposite side. Deputy Macdonald stated he did not have any Rigor Mortis and was cool to the touch in the chest area.

Deputy MacDonald stated the decedent had left a note to the land owner Jack Martin to get the Sheriff and come down to his mobile home area. The decedent instructed him to not come down without the Sheriff with him. Jack Martin owns the land and the homes on the property at 1128 Tubbs Lane Calistoga, Ca. where the decedent was living in the mobile home.

The property at 1128 Tubbs Lane is on the south side of the street. There is a single family dwelling on the property and the entrance of the driveway. This home is where Jack Martin's Son in-law lives with his Daughter. A driveway extends from Tubbs Lane along the west edge of the property running south to the back property. This back area has two mobile homes positioned end to end along the west edge of the property line. Approximately 125 yards from the roadway. There are several towable travel trailers sitting in this back area along the north perimeter. There is a large metal pole barn sitting just to the east of the mobile homes and south. There is a metal shipping container, which is approximately 20 feet in length sitting on the northeast outer corner of the barn.

The driveway opens up in this area with all these items sitting along the edge perimeter of this open driveway area. This area is big enough to fit several vehicles or equipment in it. The decedent lives in the back mobile home, which Jack Martin owns. The two have been good friends for some time. The decedent's car with his dog "Rags" was parked in front of the Barn and just east of the mobile home he stayed in.

The decedent was located lying on the ground approximately 53 feet north of the shipping container. I found an expended .45 caliber round on the ground approximately 16 feet from the decedent left foot. I collected the expended round and booked in to the Coroner's Office evidence. There was a Glock, semi-automatic, .45 caliber pistol with magazine inserted lying on the ground next to the decedent's left foot. I observed blood and flesh on and in the end of the barrel. This is referred to as "blow back" from the closeness or contact of the gunshot. There was also blood and flesh splattered on the outside areas of the gun. This is consistent with a contact or close range gunshot to the head. The weapon was cleared of one live hollow point round in the chamber and an empty 10 round magazine was removed from the gun. These were booked into the Coroner's Weapons Locker for safekeeping and potential evidence.

Observations of the decedent was at approximately 2245 hours and the outside temperature was approximately 52 to 54 degrees:

The decedent was lying on his back with his head in generally a northerly direction and his feet were straight out from his body lying flat in a general southerly direction. The decedent left arm was down to his side with his

Coroner's Report

Narrative Napa County Sheriff - Coroner Forensic Science Center 1535 Airport Blvd. Napa, CA 94558 (707) 253-4256

Case Reference				
Deceased First Middle Last	Deputy Assigned	Coroner Number	Case Number	Date and Time of Report
MICHAEL CRAIG	JONES, JAY	C14-209		On 04/14/2014 @ 13:46

fingers, and thumb under his left buttock area. His right arm was extended straight out from his body level with his shoulder socket with his hand in a loosely formed fist position. His head was slightly turned to the right of midline center. The decedent had a large pooling of blood under his head and around the top of his shoulders as well. This was a very bright deep red color appearing to have not been exposed to the air for long period. The decedent had blood coming from both nostrils, which was mostly dried during my observations. The decedent's right eye appeared to be extremely bloodshot red. The decedent was cool to the touch. He was only in the first stages of Rigor Mortis appearing in the jaw/neck area. Both his eyes were open, but the right more then the left.

I observed a large wound on the decedent right side temple region of his head. This appeared to be approximately 2 to 3 inchs above and slightly forward of the top of his right ear. There was a large amount of brain matter protruding out of this wound. The skin around the wound appeared to have stippling from the pressure, and powder burns from a possible contact qunshot. There was a wound on the opposite side of his head with a large amount of bone and brain matter protruding out of this wound. This was above his left ear approximately 3 inches above the top. These will need a closer examination to determine exactly which is entry and exit however. The decedent had a large bird feather protruding from the back of his head sticking out approximately 6 to 8 inches to his right side. The decedent had blood splatter on his right arm, hand and areas of the front of his polo shirt as well as his pants and tops of his shoes.

The decedent left a document out in his mobile home titled "Emergency Notification and Last Will and Testament". This had the decedent name, date of birth, social security number and address on the front. This gave detailed instructions on Jack Martin being his executor of his estate along with who to notify etc. He also had two letters out. I would classify these as Suicide Notes. The first was to Jack stating he was sorry, but it could not be helped. "There is no more time". Then gave him instructions on what to do with property. Another letter was addressed to Jesse Re his girlfriend. This also was a letter with apologies and how he felt about her. He stated, "I did not decide until today". "I did not know until today". He also gives property away to her son in this letter. Copies of these documents were made and are included in this file. The originals were released back to Jack Martin, his friend and Executor.

Next of Kin Search:

I took the information off of the decedent's will and attempted to contact his First Cousin Sherry Colliton by telephone first. Both phone numbers listed by the decedent did not work. I also sent an e-mail to all three e-mail addresses that were listed and I have not heard back from her. I did a computer search for any relatives and have not found any at this time. He stated he does not have a wife or any children in his will.

•	• 1 • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Prior Health	
other medical issues. The decedent has lived between Colorado and	It is not know if he has any California off and on it is reported.
Witnesses	
Jack Eliot Martin,	

Coroner's Report

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Napa County Sheriff – Coroner Forensic Science Cente GNATURE
1535 Airport Blvd. Napa, CA 94558
(707) 253-4256

DATE:

	Case	Reference		
Deceased First Middle Last MICHAEL CRAIG RUPPERT	Deputy Assigned JONES, JAY	Coroner Number C14-209	Case Number	Date and Time of Report On 04/14/2014 @ 13:46
Andrew Wilhelm,				
	E	/idence		
Digital photographs, Glock S round and one live hollow po				
	P	roperty		
All property with the exception	on of the gun and ammo	magazine were r	eleased to Jac	k Martin.
		llow Up		

Coroner's Report

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Supplement Narrative
Napa County Sheriff – Coroner Forensic Science Center GNATURE:

1535 Airport Blvd. Napa, CA 94558

(707) 253-4256

DATE:

	Case	Reference		
<u>Deceased</u> First Middle Last MICHAEL CRAIG	Deputy Assigned Jay R. Jones #112	Coroner Number C14-209	Case Number	Date and Time of Report On 04/16/2014 @ 08:56
RUPPERT				
	The state of the s	stigation		
On 04/15/2014 at approxim stating she had been notifies surprise her, she made a space asked if she needed to was named as the executorim.	ed of her Cousin, Michael pontaneous statement in o do anything regarding he	's death by Jack N summary of, He h er cousin's body o	Martin on 04/19 has been planr disposition or e	5/2014. The suicide did not ning this for a long time. estate. I told her Jack Martir
First Cousin:				
Sherry Colliton	entrations of the appropriate the same			
	Pric	or Health		
N/A	Pric	or Health		
W/A	Pric	or Health		
N/A	5 19			
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Summary Pathology Report

	DATE:	. 6			
Decedent's Name (Last, First, Middle)		Sex		Coroner Report Number	
Ruppert, Michael Craig			Male 🗆 Femal	e C14-209	
Identification of Decedent		E GYBRAN	Production of the state of the		
☐ Next of Kin / Relative ☐ Friend / Neighbor	☐ I.D. Card /	License	☐ Fingerpr	ints	
☐ Dental ☐ DNA ☐ Identification Pending	Type of Examir	nation			
0 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 1	☐ At	utopsy	⊠ E	External Exam	
Pathologist	Date of Death		Date of Examination	Time of Examination	
Joseph I. Cohen, MD	04-13-201	L4	04-15-2014	12:10 pm	
Pathologist Assistant	Coroner Invest	tigator		SANTE EN LES	
Alex Torres	Jay Jones				
Manner of Death		. Walter His			
☐ Natural ☐ Accident ☐ Homicide	⊠ Suicide		Undetermined	☐ Pending	
☐ Toxicology ☐ Histology ☐ Medical Record	ds 🗆 Further	Investig	ation		
	is Braitier	iiivestig	ation		
External Examination					
General Appearance					
□ Well Nourished □ Undernourished □ Malno	urished Overwe	eight: [Slight \square M	oderate \square Marked	
Comments:					
		Palestri.			
Appearance: ⊠ Consistent with Age ☐ Younger ¬	Than Stated Age		lder Than State	d Age	
☑ Mustache ☐ Beard Body: ☑ Not Embalmed	■ Well Preserv	ed 🗆 🛭	ecomposition		
Comments:			entre control in the second processor and the second		
Clothing					
Two shirts, denim pants/belt, Hanes underwear, sl	hoes and socks				
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Therapeutic Procedures					
☑ None ☐ Heart Monitor/Defibrillator pads Tree	ubing: Endotr	acheal	Nasogastric	□ Orogastric	
Catheter(s): ☐ Intraosseous ☐ Intravascular ☐ L			_ пазовазать	— отовизите	
Rigor Mortis Livor Morti		i.	rymes of the state of the sati		
		⊠clieb:	- DMadarata	⊠ Blanching □ Fixed	
		or ⊠Posterior ⊠Slight □Moderate ⊠Blanching □Fixed			
Comments: Comme	nts:		u .		
	NAME OF THE OWNER			,	
Scalp	Eyes				
☐ Unremarkable ☐ Injury: Gunshot wound,	⊠Unremarkabl	☐ Unremarkable ☐ Petechiae ☐ Jaundice ☐ Hemorrhage			
Comments: see summary Comments: Periorbital ecchymosis, right					
				3	
Oral Cavity	Condition of Teet	th			
\square Unremarkable \square Petechiae \square Injury:	☐ Good ☐	Fair \square	Edentulous:	☐ Partial ☐ Complete	
Comments:	☐ Dentures	s Comi	ments:	*	
Nose	Ears				
□ Unremarkable □ Injury:	□ Unremail	rkable [□Iniury: Blood	l in ear canal (left)	
7					

Neck	Chest		DO NOT IPUTE GAME	
□ Unremarkable □ Symmetrical Comments:	□ Unremarkable □ Injury: Comments:		SIGNATURE:	
	Comments.		DATE: QHIQ	
Abdomen		Genitalia		
□ Unremarkable □ Injury:	□ Normal □ Circumcised		d □ Non-circumcised	
Comments:	Comments:			
Scars	Tattoo(5)			
$ \boxtimes None \square Wrist(s) \square Left \square Right \square Oth$	☑ None □Wrist(s) □Left □Right □Other:		Not apparent	
Comments:				
Upper Extremities / Hands	A PERMIT			
☐ Unremarkable ☐ Needle Tracks ☐ Ede	ema 🔲 I	njury:		
Hands: □ Unremarkable □ Injury:				
Comments: Blood on right forearm/hand	¥5			
Lower Extremities / Feet				
☑ Unremarkable ☐ Needle Tracks ☐ Edema ☐ Toe Tag ☐ Injury:				
Feet: ⊠ Unremarkable □Injury:				
Comments:				
Posterior (Back / Neck / Buttocks)		Perianal		
☑ Unremarkable □Injury:		☑ Unremarkable ☐ Injur	ry:	
Comments:		Comments:		

External Examination Only

Summary:

SIGNATURE

DATE:

1. Perforating contact gunshot wound of head, with:

- A. Entrance wound, right temporal.
- B. Exit wound, left temporal.
- C. Rim of soot deposition, entrance wound.
- D. Marginal tears, entrance wound.
- E. Periorbital ecchymosis, right eye.
- F. Perforations of brain and skull.
- G. Skull fractures, multiple.

Right to left, slightly upward, slightly front to back.

11. Absence of illicit drug or alcohol, postmortem blood sample.

H. Projectile direction of travel:

Cause of Death:

В	Int.
<u> </u>	Int.
D V	Int.
Other Significant Conditions:	

Pathologist Signature / / / / / /	Date
With Claro	08-02-2015
Coroner Investigator Signature	Date
Reviewed by	Date
Mach Foots	8/4/15

Napa County Sheriff-Cor er

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Worksheet and Inventory.

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Decedent Mi	chael Craig Rupp	ert	_File Num	ber DA 614-209	_ 417	710
Determined by:	Autopsy	External	File R	eview		
Cause of Death:		r				
(A) PERFORATING	G CONTACT O	TW5 HOV GE	NSHOT	WOUND OF	HEAD (S	
(B)				Int		
(C)			***************************************	Int_		
(D)				Int	<i>(</i>)	
Other Significant Cor	nditions	v				
Pathologist	COHEN		Date	04-15-14		
Jos	seph I. Cohen, MD)		04/15/2014		
	l Case Inventory			For Certification	For File Completio	
Toxicology: ☐ Rush ☐ Brain ☐ D Vitreous Electrolytes	Blood from Vitreous	□ Subdural blood		2	(C), Toppla	i Re
Histology: Ccasset	. ~		D		V	
Neuropathology: Brain	n □ Spinal Cord	□ Eyes □ Other			, and an	
Reports Law Enforces	nent (ECoroner Re	port \Box Fire \Box O	ther	Merel-		
Microbiology: □ Blood	□ CSF □ Tissue	□ Bacterial-Viral	-TB-Other			
Consultants: Pediatrix	☐ Anthropology	□ Radiology □	Other			
Records: Hospital	ER (Medical)	□ Paramedic □	Other	Ø?	,	
Scene Investigation (e.g.,	SUID, Sudden Unex	kplained Infant De	ath)			
Misc.: (X-Ray) Phot	□ Blood: Red-Y	ellow-Gray for		-		
		ral-Anal-Vaginal Blood (Purple)	□ Nails			
☐ Other Evidence: ☐ Clothing ☐	□ Ballistics □ Tra	ce □·Other		w-		
Computer U	JpdatedDC	Worksheet Comp	leted	_Follow up compl	lete	



Case Name:

TOXICOLOGY NUMBER:

Ruppert,

Michael

5.5 ml peripheral blood (gray top vial) labeled "Ruppert, Michael; C14-209; Dr

Specimen Description: Cohen; 4/15/14"

Delivered by Tricor

18-Apr-14 Date

Bill Posey Received by

Date 18-Apr-14

Request: Complete Drug Screen

Agency Case # C14-209

Requesting Agency

Napa County Coroner 1535 Airport Blvd. Napa CA 94558

Report To

Napa County Coroner 1535 Airport Blvd. Napa CA 94558

Specimen: Peripheral Blood Sample

RESULTS

Complete Drug Screen: Diphenhydramine detected.

No other common acidic, neutral or basic drugs detected.

No Ethyl Alcohol detected.

Diphenhydramine = 0.09 mg/L

Blood Diphenhydramine Ranges

Effective Level:

(0.1 - 1.0 mg/L)

Potentially Toxic:

(1 - 5 mg/L)

B.L. POSEY S.N. KIMBLE Directors

1580 Tollhouse Road Clovis, California 93611 Phone (559) 323-9940 Fax (559) 323-7502

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Napa County Sher	riff-Coroner SIGNATURE
	DATE: 9 12:10fm
Case Number C14-209 Name	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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